

## Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 MCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 OMB-01 IO-13 /083 W

-----020640Z 032251 /16

R 020500Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY SANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1399

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USINT BAHGDAD POUCH

S E C R E T SANA 2090

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, PINT

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER ON AL-HAJRI ASSASSINATION

REF: SANA 1825 NOTAL

1. DURING MAY 28 CALL, I ASKED FOREIGN MINISTER ABDALLAH AL-ASNAJ WHAT HAD BEEN THE RESULTS OF YARG'S EFFORTS TO OBTAIN EXTRADITION FROM IRAQ FOR ZUHAYR AKASH, THE ALLEGED ASSASSIN OF QADI AL-HAJRI (SEE REFTEL). AL-ASNAJ REPLIED THA A FORMAL NOTE HAD BEEN DELIVERED TO THE IRAQI GOVERNMENT SEVERAL WEEKS AGO AND THAT THE IRAQI GOVERNMENT APPEARS TO BE COOPERATIVE ALTHOUGH NO FORMAL RESPONSE HAS YET BEEN FORTHCOMING FROM BAGHDAD. AL-ASNAJ OPINED THAT THE IRAQIS MAY BE TAKING A SEEMINGLY POSITIVE POSITION IN ORDER TO DRAW ATTENTION AWAY FROM THEIR POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT IN THE AL-AHJRI MURDER AND THEREBY THROW ALL BLAME ON PDRY WITH WHOM, AL-ASNAJ NOTED, IRAQ HAS NOT HAD GOOD RELATIONS RECENTLY.

2. AL-ASNAJ ALSO TOLD ME THAT HE HAD JUST FINISHED PRE-

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PARING A "STRONG" NOTE TO BE DELIVERED ON MAY 29 TO YASSIR ARAGAT, WHO ISPRESENTLY IN CAIRO. AL-ASNAJ EXPLAINED THAT YEMEN WILL REQUEST THE PLO TO TAKE EVERY MEASURE TO TURN AKASH OVER TO YARG AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. AL-ASNAJ ALSO NOTED THAT THE YARG WAS NOT SANGUINE THAT AKASH WOULD EVER BE TURNED OVER BUT IT WAS A LEAST ON RECORD WITH PLO THAT IT AWARE OF WHO INVOLVED IN AL-HAJRI

ASSASSINATION.

3. IN REPLY TO MY QUESTION ABOUT WHAT THE YARG PLANNED TO DO VIS-A-VIS PDRY IN VIEW OF ALLEGATIONS THAT YAMDAH REPRESENTATIVE (PDRY AIRLINES) ALAWI HUSAYN FARHAN WAS ALSO INVOLVED IN THE AL-HAJRI ASSASSINATION. AL-ASNAJ SHRUGGED HIS SHOULDERS AND REPLIED SIMPLY "HE WILL BE TAKEN CARE OF".

4. COMMENT: PDRY AND PALESTINAIN INVOLVEMENT IN AL-HAJRI ASSASSINATION OBVIOUSLY FULLY ACCEPTED BY YARG WHICH WHILE ENERGETICALLY TRYING TO MAKE APPROPRAITE POLIITICAL AND POSSIBLY PUNITIVE RESPONSES IS ALSO GENUINELY CONCERNED ABOUT THE SAFETY OF ITS TOP LEADERSHIP. IN THIS LATTER CONNECTION, AL-ASNAJ MENTIONED THAT HE WAS PLANNING TO STAY AWAY FROM LONDON FOR THE NEXT FEW MONTHS AS A RESULT OF THE AL-HAJRI ASSASSINATION, WE ALSO KNOW THAT OTHER YEMENI LEADERS LIKE AL-HAMDI AND CHIEF-OF -STAFF AL-GHASHMI ALSO ARE TAKING INCREASED PROTECTIVE MEASURES TO INSURE THEIR SAFETY. AT THE SAME TIME FROM AL-ASNAJ'S RATHER OMINOUS COMMENT ABOUT POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTION AGAINST FARHAN, WE MAY NOW SEE SOME BLOODLETTING IN THE CONTEXT OF AN INCREASE IN PDRY/YARG TENSIONS. SCOTES

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PFOR, PINS, PINT, YE, (AL-ASNAJ, ABDULLAH), (AL-HAJRI, QADI), (AKASH, ZUHAYR)  
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